

13.

A New Genus and Species of Lithosiinae (Moths) from Rancho Grande, North-central Venezuela.¹

HENRY FLEMING.

Entomologist, Department of Tropical Research, New York Zoological Society.

(Text-figure 1).

(This is one of a series of papers resulting from the 45th and 46th Expeditions of the Department of Tropical Research of the New York Zoological Society made during 1945 and 1946 under the direction of Dr. William Beebe with headquarters at Rancho Grande in the National Park of Aragua, Venezuela. The expeditions were made possible through the generous co-operation of the National Government of Venezuela and of the Creole Petroleum Corporation.)

***Pseudomacroptila*, new genus.**

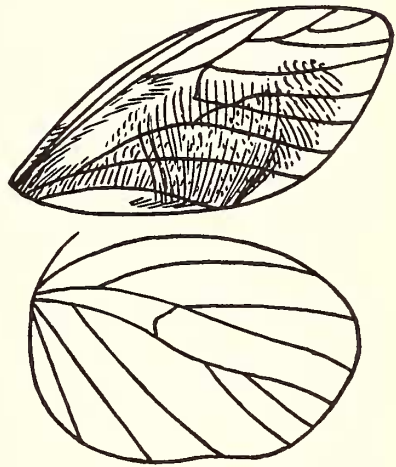
Text-figure 1.

Proboscis developed; palpi when upturned not reaching the vertex of head; first segment of palpi with fan-shaped ventral tuft and last segment porrect with a small terminal tuft of hairs. Each segment of the antennae with a stiff hair on each side; those on the outside of the segments separated by a row of fine short hairs. Legs normal for this group of genera. Abdomen and thorax with long hair. The last three segments of abdomen with lateral tufts. Last segment with a ventral-terminal tuft in addition to the lateral tufts.

Forewing moderately long and narrow. Vein R_1 from cell. Veins R_{2-5} stalked together; R_2 separating first, R_5 next and R_3 and R_4 long stalked. Vein M_1 free from tip of radial stem and M_2 and M_3 short-stalked. Vein Cu_1 from near end of cell and Cu_2 from approximately the first third of cell.

Hindwing with Sc from just before middle of cell, R_s and M_1 short-stalked, M_2 , M_3 and Cu_1 long-stalked and Cu_2 from first third of cell.

Closely related to *Macroptila*, from which it differs by M_2 , M_3 and Cu_1 of the hindwing being stalked and Cu_2 in both fore and hindwings arising from much nearer the base of the cell. It differs from the genotype, *M. crinada* Dognin, by R_2 of the forewing being stalked with R_{3-5} . It is most closely related to Hampson's section II². The radial branches of the forewing are similar, the sex scaling quite alike (ibid; fig. 111; *M. laniata*) and



TEXT-FIG. 1. Fore and hindwings of *Pseudomacroptila argentea*, showing venation and sex scale pattern. (Drawing by Lloyd Sandford).

the hindwings lack a patch of androconia. The genus *Neagylla* has M_2 , M_3 and Cu_1 forked in the hindwing, but the forewing is quite different since R_2 and R_3 are forked together and R_4 and R_5 separate nearer the apex of the wing.

Genotype: *Pseudomacroptila argentea*, new species, described below.

***Pseudomacroptila argentea*, new species.**

Length of forewing of male 19 mm.

Outer margin of hindwing approximately twice as long as outer margin of forewing.

Front of head fuscous, antennae Light Ochraceous Buff. The second and third joints of palpi Tawny, first joint Antimony Yellow with a ventral series of hairs forming a fan which is concolorous with the ventrum of the thorax and coxa and dorso-proximal part of the prothoracic femur. Top of head and dorsum of thorax silver gray. The patagia and caudal edge of the last thoracic segment with long hairs. Dorsum of abdomen silvery gray but with a tinge of Light Ochraceous-Buff; ventrum Warm Buff.

¹ Contribution No. 905, Department of Tropical Research, New York Zoological Society.

² Cat. Lep. Phal. B. M., Vol. II, p. 191 (1900).

Forewings silvery white with a changeable quality like that of watered silk. Costal edge of forewing to near the apex Antimony Yellow. The area between the discal cell and inner margin appears in various lights darker as if tinged with buff. This is probably explained by the crinkling of the wing caused by the peculiar scent scales on the underside coupled with the fact that the coloring of the scales on the underside tend to ride through the wing membrane. Underside of forewing Warm Buff. Along the inner margin of the radial stem are long scales which become progressively larger as they approach the cell end. The larger scales are also narrowly spatulate. A line of shorter spatulate scales caudal of these on a remnant of the medial stem. In the lower part of the cell and from half way out the cell to half way between the cell end and the outer margin of the wing is a wide line of broadly spatulate scales which, beyond the cell, form a patch extending as far cephalad as vein M_1 . Another narrower line of similar scales is situated on $2dA$ and run into the aforementioned patch around the cell end. Another very long and narrowly spatulate patch of scales below $2dA$ and near the margin of the wing. Between this last group of scales and the inner margin

near the anal angle a short ridge of appressed scales.

Hindwing very large and broad as in *Macroptila crinada*, *laniata* and *fuscilaniata*. Silvery white but the area cephalad of Cu_2 tinged with dark gray. This color apparently rides through from the underside of the wing where the same area is a slate gray with the costa Antimony Yellow.

The stalked condition of M_2 , M_3 and Cu_1 should distinguish this species from its described allies.

Material. A total of five male specimens taken as follows: Rancho Grande, near Maracay, north-central Venezuela, April 30, holotype (Cat. No. 45482); June 28, paratype (Cat. No. 45483); July 5, paratype (Cat. No. 45484a, slide of wings showing venation; 45484b, slide of wings showing sex scales; 45484c, male genitalia; 45484d, head and thorax); June 22, paratype (Cat. No. 461232); June 22, paratype (Cat. No. 46644).

Paratype Cat. No. 46644 was taken flying in the daytime, migrating through Portachuelo Pass. Four other specimens were seen but not collected. The remainder of the types were collected at lights.

The holotype is deposited in the American Museum of Natural History, New York.